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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 CIAE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05
OIC-02 SP-02 PA-02 PRS-01 OES-06 SS-15 USIA-15 /139 W
----------171052Z 077873 /12
R 170949Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5992
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION USNATO
ERDA HQ WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN
SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 3 GENEVA 2010

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PARM,ICCD
SUBJ: CCD: US EXPERT'S STATEMENT IN INFORMAL MEETING OF CCD OF
NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW)

1. ON MARCH 16, US EXPERT, DR ROBERT W. BUCHHEIM, MADE THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN INFORMAL MEETING OF CCD ON MDW:

BEGIN TEXT. A. I WOULD LIKE TODAY TO OFFER SOME CURRENT COMMENTS
ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF DISCUSSIONS HERE OF THE PROPOSAL
OF THE SOVIET UNION CONCERNING NEW TYPES OF SYSTEMS OF
WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

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B. SOME GENERAL AND IMPORTANT VIEWS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED
IN THESE DISCUSSIONS WHICH SEEM BASICALLY TO CONCERN
SCIENCE POLICY.

C. IN PARTICULAR, THE FOLLOWING POINTS HAVE BEEN MADE
BY VARIOUS SPEAKERS:

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(1). THERE IS GENERAL OPPOSITION TO THE NOTION OF
PLACING BARRIERS IN THE WAY OF FULL SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT.

(2). THERE WAS WIDE POSITIVE RECTPTION OF THE STATEMENT
BY THE AMBASSADOR OF PAKISTAN THAT EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE
TO ANTICIPATE WEAPON POTENTIALITIES THAT MAY DERIVE FROM
SCEIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT.

(3). CLOSE ATTENTION WAS PAID TO THE STATEMENT OF THE
DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE EFFECT THAT
IT IS DESIRABLE TO CONSIDER IN A TIMELY WAY PREVENTIVE OR
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO GUARD AGAINST PROBLEMS THAT MAY
DERIVE FROM SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT.

D. I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THESE POINTS RELATED TO
SCIENCE POLICY IN TERMS OF THE GENERAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE U.S.
DELEGATION. I WILL MENTION ONLY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE
UNITED STATES, BECAUSE IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE TO LIMIT
INITIAL U.S. COMMENTS IN THIS WAY. AT THE SAME TIME, WE
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT U.S. SCIENTCE BENEFITS GREATLY
FROM COMMUNICATION WITH THE LARGER ACTIVITY OF SCIENCE
WORLDWIDE -- INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS.
SCIENTIFIC ADVANCE IS ENCOURAGED IN THE UNITED STATES,IAND
IS SUPPORTED BY A WIDE VARIETY OF SOUCRES -- PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE. FURTHERMORE, ENCOURAGEMENT OF FULL AND PROMPT
PUBLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS AND RESULTS IS THE
ACCEPTED GENERAL NORM. THE CONSEQUENT TWO-PART SITUATION,
A VIGOROUS SCIENTIFIC ENTERPRISE AND GENERAL PUBLICATION,
LEADS INEVITABLY TO ONE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE HAVE SEEN
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IN DISCUSSIONS HERE;ITHAT IS, THAT MANY OF THE EXAMPLES
OF POTENTIAL PHYSICAL SYSTEMS SUGGESTED FOR DISCUSSION
HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM THE AMERICAN LITERATURE. FURTHERMORE,
AS WAS CLEARLY MENTIONED BY THE EXPERT FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA
YESTERDAY, CIVIL AUTHORITIES IN THE U.S. HAVE BEEN ALERT
TO POTENTIAL HAZARDS THAT MIGHT DERIVE FROM SOME KINDS OF
EXPERIMENTAL ACTIVITIES AND HAVE BEEN QUICK TO UNDERTAKE
PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES.

E. ONE OF THE BENEFITS OF A POLICY FAVORING PUBLICATION
OF SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION IS TO FACILITATE EFFORTS TO
MAKE TIMELY APPRAISALS OF POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF
SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

F. THAT HAVING BEEN SAID, MR CHAIRMAN,II WOULD LIKE
NOW TO TURN MORE DIRECTLY TO THE PROPOSAL AT HAND.

G. AND FIRST I WILL COMMENT ON THE MUCH-DISCUSSED
QUESTION OF DEFINITION OF THE TERM "WEAPONS OF MASS

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DESTRUCTION".

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 CIAE-00 EA-09 EUR-12 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NASA-02 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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R 170949Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5993
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
ERDA HQ WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN
SECDEF WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, CCD
SUBJ: CCD: US EXPERT'S STATEMENT IN INFORMAL MEETING OF
CCD OF NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW)

H. I HASTEN TO ALLAY FEARS THAT I AM ABOUT TO LAUNCH
INTO A LONG AND DETAILED DISCUSSION OF DEFINITIONS. A AM NOT.

I. HAVING LISTENED TO THE ARGUMENTS, AND UPON CAREFUL
REFLECTION, IT IS THE VIEW OF THE US DELEGATION THAT THE
OUTLOOK SUMMARIZED YESTERDAY BY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IS THE APPROPRIATE ONE. THE
BRIEF BUT PRACTICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE TERM "WEAPONS
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OF MASS DESTRUCTION" PROMULGATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1948 HAS THE APPROPRIATE BASIC ATTRIBUTES, AS FOLLOWS:

(1.) THE 1948 CHARACTERIZATION STATES THE FOUR SPECIFIC TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION RECOGNIZED AT THAT TIME.

(2.) IT SPECIFICALLY RECOGNIZES THAT, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE, ADDITIONAL TYPES OF WEAPONS WARRANTING THAT STATUS COULD ARISE IN THE FUTURE.

(3.) IT ESTABLISHES A GENERAL BUT PRACTICAL STANDARD TO BE APPLIED BY REASONABLE MEN IN JUDGING WHETHER OR NOT A CANDIDATE NEW WEAPON SHOULD BE CATEGORIZED AS A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION; THAT IS, THAT THE NEW WEAPON, IN TERMS OF DESTRUCTIVE EFFECT, BE COMPARABLE WITH THE TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ALREADY RECOGNIZED. THE AMBASSADOR OF THE SOVIET UNION SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THIS STANDARD OF COMPARABILITY IN HIS STATEMENT YESTERDAY.

J. IN OUR JUDGMENT, THE 1948 CHARACTERIZATION IS A SATISFACTORY BASIS FOR DISCUSSION.

K. WE RECOGNIZE THAT VIEWS MAY DIFFER ON THIS JUDGMENT; HOWEVER, WE THINK IT USEFUL TO USE THE 1948 CHARACTERIZATION TO ASSESS THE STRUCTURE OF AGREEMENTS AND THE AGENDA FOR ARRIVING AT FURTHER AGREEMENTS CONCERNING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. THAT STATUS IS AS FOLLOWS:

(1.) NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS ARE ALREADY SUBJECT TO SEVERAL LIMITING AGREEMENTS AND FURTHER WORK AIMING AT COMPREHENSIVE CONTROL IS CLEARLY ON THE WORLD'S AGENDA.

(2.) THE STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS OF RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS WAS SUMMARIZED THE THE DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA EARLIER THIS WEEK.

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(3.) BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS ARE THE SUBJECT OF A COMPREHENSIVE CONVENTION; AND WE HAVE HEARD THE SCOPE AND INTEGRITY OF THE CONVENTION REAFFIRMED HERE THIS WEEK.

(4.) CHEMICAL WEAPONS ARE SUBJECT TO PARTIAL LIMITATIONS AND FURTHER UNDERTAKINGS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE ON THE CCD AGENDA.

L. IT IS THE UNCERTAIN FIELD OF POTENTION NEW TYPES OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION NOT FALLING UNDER THESE HEAD-

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INGS THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE PROPOSAL OF THE SOVIET UNION.

M. IN HIS STATEMENT ON MONDAY, COLONEL SOURIKOV PRESENTED FIVE KINDS OF PHYSICAL SYSTEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AS CANDIDATES FOR DESIGNATION AS NEW TYPES OR SYSTEMS OF MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS. I WILL COMMENT BRIEFLY ON EACH.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-10 CIAE-00 EA-09
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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N. THREE OF COLONEL SOURIKOV'S EXAMPLES -- INFRA-SOUND WAVES, RADIO-FREQUENCY WAVES, AND FUEL/AIR EXPLOSIVES -- WE DO NOT CONSIDER QUALIFIED TO BE DESIGNATED AS WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. IN ADDITION, WE NOTE THAT FUEL/AIR EXPLOSIVES HAVE ALREADY BEEN DESIGNATED INTERNATIONALLY AS FALLING INTO THE CATEGORY OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. THE UNITED NATIONS CHARACTERIZATION OF 1948 SPECIFICALLY DRAWS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS AND WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTIONS.

O. A FOURTH CANDIDATE PROPOSED BY COL SOURIKOV IS POTENTIAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS BASED ON FISSIONABLE ELEMENTS

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HEAVIER THAN URANIUM-235 AND PLUTONIUM-239. WITHOUT
COMMENTING ON THE RELATIVELY LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH DEVELOP-
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MENTS, WE SIMPLY NOTE THAT SUCH WEAPONS -- IF REALIZED --
WOJLD STILL BE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND SHOULD BE REFULATED
AS SUCH.

P. COLONEL SOURIKOV'S FIFTH KIND OF PHYSICAL SYSTEM IS
A DELIVERY SYSTEM DESIGNED TO DISPLAY CHARACTERISTICS OF
BOTH AIRCRAFT AND SPACECRAFT OR BALLISTIC MISSILES. HE
MENTIONS TWO POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS OF SUCH TYPES OF DELIVERY
VEHICLES -- DELIVERY OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION TO BE
STATIONED IN SPACE, AND DELIVERY OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUC-
TION TO TARGETS ON THE EARTH'S SUFRACE. THE FIRST OF THESE
POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS IS PROHIBITED TO ANY PARTY TO THE
OUTER SPACE TREATY OF 1967. PRESERVING THAT PROHIBITION
DOES NOT REQUIRE SPECIFYING ANY PARTICULAR TYPES OF DELIVERY
VEHICLES -- OLD OR NEW. DELIVERY VEHICLES THAT MIGHT
BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE SECOND KIND OF APPLICATION --
DELIVERY OF WEAPONS TO SUFRACE TARGETS -- ARE SUBJECT TO
ARMS LIMITATIONS DISCUSSIONS BEING CARRIED OUT IN OTHER
INTERNATIONAL FORUMS.

Q. THE CLASS OF AEROSPACE VEHICLES DISCUSSED BY COL
SOURIKOV WAS ALSO MENTIONED TODAY BY THE EXPERT FROM
HUNGARY, WHO ILLUSTRATED HIS REMARKS BY REFERENCE TO THE
SPACE SHUTTLE.

R. FROM THIS BRIEF ANALYSIS, WE SEE THAT EXISTING AGREE-
MENTS PLUS THE EXISTING AGENDA IN ARMS LIMITATION FORUMS
RECOGNIZE EACH KIND OF WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION RAISED FOR
SERIOUS DISCUSSION THUS FAR.

5.ITHIS LEAVES THE QUESTION OF TYPES OF WEAPONS NOT YET
CONCEPTUALIZED IN SPECIFIC TERMS.

T. IN OUR VIEW, THE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT FOR DEALING
WITH UNPREDICTABLE FUTURE WEAPON POSSIBILITIES CAN BE
SUMMARIZED IN ONE WORD: VIGILIANCE.IIT IS POSSIBLE THAT
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SOME KINDS OF FORMAL UNDERTAKINGS COULD FACILITATE SERVING
THIS ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT FOR DEALING WITH THE UNKNOW
CLASS OF POSSIBILITIES. THE U.S. HAS NO SPECIFIC OPINION
ON THAT QUESTION AT THIS TIME. END TEXT.

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2. SOVIET DEL DID NOT RESPOND DURING MEETING, BUT REQUESTED
A COPY OF STATEMENT WHICH WAS PROVIDED. MONGOLIAN, UK AND
FRG DELS ALSO ASKED FOR COPIES. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Comment:
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3082696
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CCD: US EXPERT\'S STATEMENT IN INFORMAL MEETING OF CCD OF NEW MASS DESTRUCTION WEAPONS (MDW)
TAGS: PARM, US, CCD, (RUCHHEIM, ROBERT W)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/12ae09b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009